

Testimony by William Rees  
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Background:

Green Power Solutions Inc. (formerly Eastcoast Energy Inc.) was established in 2005 to develop renewable energy projects throughout the Northeast. Since 2010, Green Power Solutions, Inc. (GPS) has been developing urban anaerobic digestion facilities taking 100% food waste from supermarkets, restaurants to turn into electricity. GPS has partnered with Baycorp holdings Ltd. to form NEO Energy LLC as the full-service development entity. In recent months, GPS has been contracted to help facilitate the development of a farm based AD system at Fairvue Farms in Woodstock CT. As President of GPS, I believe that Connecticut is ready to utilize anaerobic digestion of organics to create renewable energy to meet the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

**Testimony in favor of SB No 634 and PB No 5486 to be combined and amended to establish a feed-in-tariff for "All Organic Bio-methane resources".**

1) Feed-in-Tariffs

From a renewable energy development perspective, a feed in tariff is key to getting rapid development of renewable resources. Witness the Vermont feed in tariff that was oversubscribed on the first day that it was available.

Designing the feed in tariff is critical and simply setting a rate that is tied to current power prices has been unsuccessful. Ontario tried that and a large number of projects signed up for the tariff, none of which were ever built because of insufficient revenues to get financing. Ontario went back and developed technology-specific tariffs and the program has been quite successful in encouraging the development of renewable projects. Any feed in tariff legislation should require the CT Department of Public Utility Control to engage in a rapid process to establish the technology-specific tariffs required to build the projects plus make a reasonable return on equity invested. Again, the Vermont process was quite good and involved numerous renewable industry developers who provided significant details on the cost of development, construction and operation of their projects.

I suggest looking back at the development of both Ontario and Vermont to help facilitate the CT feed-in-tariff rules. It might also be worthwhile to look at the successes and failures of European countries developing their own programs.

2) Connecticut Opportunity – To turn waste into resource throughout the state.

Although I commend the legislature for drafting this bill to promote in-state generation of renewable energy. I ask that the Bill includes all organic waste streams throughout the state. There is a larger opportunity that is yet to be realized.

- a. Connecticut disposes of over 400,000 tons per year of organic waste

- i. Food Waste Up to 150,000 (CT DEP 2001)
  - ii. Yard and Garden
  - iii. Biosolids 118,000 tons (nebiosolids.org 2004)
- b. Material is primarily burned in CT incinerators
  - i. Organics such as food waste and biosolids are 75% water
  - ii. Organics create a heavy energy drain on these facilities
  - iii. These burn facilities are not the best use for this material
  - iv. CT consumers are paying far too high a price to dispose of this material
- c. By enacting an all organic waste feed-in-tariff
  - i. CT will have created a Clean Tech AD Industry overnight, the first of its kind in the US.
    - 1. Financeable projects will be developed
    - 2. Increase in Jobs
    - 3. Larger Tax base
  - ii. CT will have created an immediate demand for organic wastes.
    - 1. Farmers will be able to develop AD projects using their manure as a value to potential project partners
    - 2. WWTF like in Bridgeport and Hartford will have the ability to stop paying to send their material for incineration, but utilize the biomass for their own green energy generation.
    - 3. Supermarkets, Food manufacturers, and restaurants will find a demand for their organic wastes. Thus reducing their operational costs. This might even filter back to the CT consumer with lower food costs.

### 3) Utility Involvement

It is my assumption that if the feed-in-tariff is limited to farm methane sources, the legislation will not get the backing of the Utility companies due to the limited number of potential generators. Developing an "organics" tariff will greatly increase the amount of generation under the rate, and should prove to be more interesting to utilities.

I ask this committee to amend SB No.634 to include all organic waste streams throughout the state. To create a feed-in tariff that will benefit the State of Connecticut as a whole.

Thank you,

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